DC SUPERMAN-NATIONAL COMICS

BIG TOWN

JAN.-FEB.
NO. 25
10c

DC SUPERMAN-NATIONAL COMICS

NEW STORIES of TV's HIT SHOW!

LEAVE IT TO Binky

"HOME, SWEET HOME!"

HIYA, LUCY! GOSH, THAT'S SWEET OF YOU SETTING OUT THOSE COOKIES FOR MY PARTY TONIGHT.
YOUR PARTY? THESE ARE FOR THE MEMBERS OF MY SCHOOL CLUB WHO ARE MEETING HERE TONIGHT.
WHAT? BUT I SPOKE TO MOTHER LAST WEEK ABOUT HAVING MY CROWD OVER TONIGHT, AND SHE SAID IT WAS OKAY.
I'M SORRY, BINKY, BUT MOTHER MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY MEETING. YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL YOUR PARTY OFF!
OH-OH! THERE'S GONNA BE FIREWORKS ANY MINUTE!
MOM! POP!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, CHILDREN, BEFORE YOU START ANY FURTHER BICKERING. LET'S DISCUSS THIS SENSIBLY, SAME AS YOU DO AT YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS.
YES, AND AT HOME, TOO. FATHER AND I DISCUSS FAMILY MATTERS WITH YOU, DON'T WE?
WELL, I DON'T SEE ANY WAY OUT.
LET'S TRY... DOES YOUR MEETING HAVE TO TAKE UP THE WHOLE EVENING?
NO-O... WE'RE STARTING AT 8 – AND I SUPPOSE WE COULD BE THROUGH BY 9:30.
THEN, PERHAPS BINKY COULD POSTPONE HIS PARTY UNTIL THEN, AND YOU COULD DO SOMETHING AFTERWARDS..
SURE! I'LL ORGANIZE A TREASURE HUNT THAT'LL TAKE US AWAY FROM THE HOUSE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER. HOW'S THAT?
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME! WE'LL GO ROLLER-SKATING AFTER OUR MEETING.
PERFECT! THEN NOBODY WILL BE IN THE WAY OF YOUR GROUP, LUCY--AND BINKY'S CROWD CAN TAKE OVER AFTERWARDS! I HAVE ENOUGH COOKIES FOR EVERYBODY.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! IT'S WONDERFUL WHAT A LITTLE DISCUSSION WILL DO!
NOW I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AROUND HERE! I'M ALL FOR MORE DEMOCRACY AT HOME!

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BIG TOWN
A KILLER STALKS THE STREETS OF BIG TOWN -- HUNTING DOWN STEVE WILSON, CRIME-FIGHTING NEWSPAPERMAN OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS! AND IN THE DEADLY CHAGE WHERE BULLETS SLAM THROUGH THE NIGHT, NEITHER STEVE NOR HIS GRIM PURSUER COULD POSSIBLY GUESS THE SURPRISING OUTCOME TO THE EXCITING CASE OF ...
THE SIX LIVES OF STEVE WILSON!
I'VE GOT SIX SLUGS IN THIS CANNON, WILSON -- AND YOU CAN'T OUTRUN 'EM ALL!
BAM!

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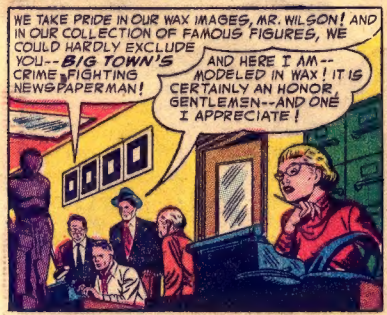
NOW, WILSON--
YOU DIE!

AND IS THAT HOW KILLER MALONE SNEAKED UP ON YOU; MR. WILSON?
YES--AND LUCKILY, I MANAGED TO DISARM HIM AND CALL THE POLICE! YOU KNOW, THAT WAX DUMMY IS CERTAINLY REALISTIC! AND THE TYPEWRITER I DONATED FROM MY OFFICE ADDS AN EXTRA TOUCH!


WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR WAX IMAGES, MR. WILSON! AND IN OUR COLLECTION OF FAMOUS FIGURES, WE COULD HARDLY EXCLUDE YOU--BIG TOWN'S CRIME FIGHTING NEWSPAPERMAN!
AND HERE I AM--MODELED IN WAX! IT IS CERTAINLY AN HONOR, GENTLEMEN--AND ONE I APPRECIATE!

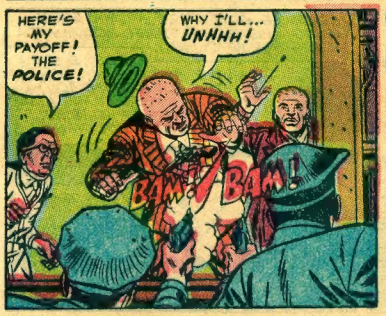
YOUR NEWSPAPER IS CURRENTLY WAGING A FIGHT AGAINST THE WEST SIDE MOB, MR. WILSON! HOW ARE YOU MAKING OUT?
I WISH I COULD SAY WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL--BUT SO FAR WE'VE JUST SCRATCHED THE SURFACE! WE'LL KEEP AT IT! GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN...

LATER, AT THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
LET'S GIVE IT PLENTY OF PAGE ONE SPACE, LORELEI--WITH PICTURES! WE'RE GOING TO STIR UP BIG TOWN TO A FIGHTING MOOD!
INSPECTOR CALLAHAN CALLED WHEN YOU WERE AT THE MUSEUM, STEVE! GUNMEN FROM THE WEST SIDE MOB SHOT UP TWO STORES EARLY THIS MORNING!

AND THAT DAY, THE PAPERS ROLL...
EXTRA!
ILLUSTRATED PRESS
EXTRA!
THIS HAPPENED TODAY IN BIG TOWN!
GANGSTERS TERRORIZE CITY!

WEST SIDE MOB STRIKES AGAIN! HARDWARE STORE SHOT UP IN RAID!
PAPER! GET'CHER PAPER!
NO!
EXTRA!
GANGSTER GUNFIGHT!

THEN, TWO NIGHTS LATER, TWO MEN ENTER A DRUG STORE...
THE BOSS IS TIRED OF THIS STALLIN' AROUND! WHERE'S YOUR PROTECTION PAY-OFF? GET IT UP--OR ELSE!
SURE--I HAVE MY PAY-OFF! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU...
R. PRESCRIP

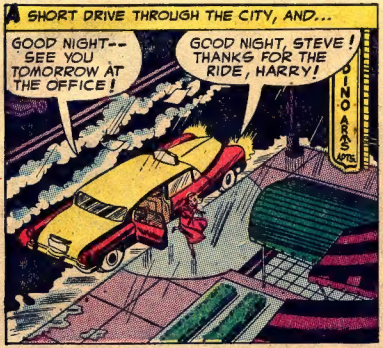

HERE'S MY PAYOFF! THE POLICE!
WHY I'LL... UNHHH!
BAM! BAM!

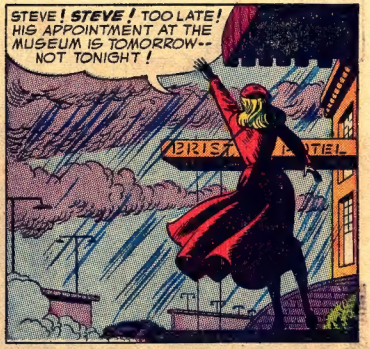
AND AT AN UPTOWN JEWELRY STORE...
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO CALL... AND I AM PREPARED...
NOW THAT'S BEING REAL SMART, CHUM! WHERE'S THE DOUGH?

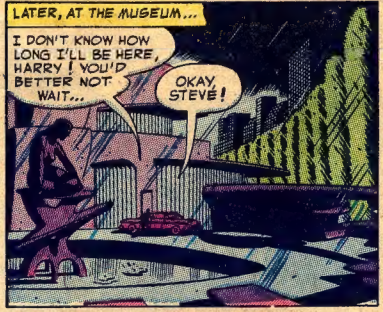
--AND ONCE AGAIN POLICE APPEAR FROM BEHIND COUNTERS:..
COPS! WE'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!
YOU'VE MADE YOUR LAST "PROTECTION" COLLECTION!

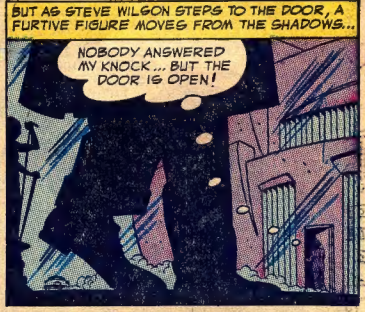
THE NEXT MORNING...AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS
STEVE, IT WORKED! YOU'VE GOT BIG TOWN FIGHTING MAD! THE MERCHANTS, INSTEAD OF CRAWLING, STOOD UP AND FOUGHT! THEY TIPPED THE POLICE OFF TO EVERY RAID--AND WE WERE WAITING ON THE SPOT! BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE TROUBLE...
YES, INSPECTOR CALLAHAN?

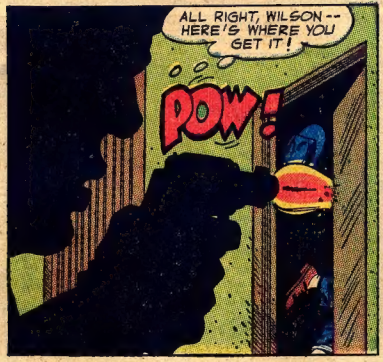
THE BOSS--WE DIDN'T GET THE BOSS! WE SMASHED THE WEST SIDE MOB AS SUCH--BUT EVEN THE CROOKS DIDN'T KNOW WHO THE TOP MAN WAS! IT SEEMS HE ALWAYS WORKED IN SECRECY--AND NEVER LET HIS IDENTITY BE KNOWN!
AND YOU KNOW, STEVE--MUCH CREDIT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU AND THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS FOR SMASHING THE GANG! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THE MYSTERIOUS BOSS MAY GO GUNNING FOR YOU...
INSPECTOR, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME I SHOULD CARRY POLICE PROTECTION AROUND WITH ME, YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER...
I EXPECTED YOU TO SAY THAT... BUT AT LEAST BE CAREFUL! BIG TOWN DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE ITS TOP NEWSPAPER-MAN!
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE UPTOWN, A MAN LOADS A PISTOL AND STARES MOODILY AT A NEWS ER HEADLINE...
WILSON'S BEEN KING BIG, PRETTY HEADLINES, EH? LL--I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH HIM, AND MAKE A DIFFERENT TYPE OF HEADLINE... IN THE OBITUARY COLUMNS!
TERS RIZE CIT
THAT NIGHT, THE SAME MAN WAITS OUTSIDE THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS BUILDING...
WILSON SHOULD BE OUT SOON...
SHORTLY AFTER-WARDS...
I'LL HAVE HARRY THE HACK DRIVE YOU HOME, LORRIE--THEN I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE MUSEUM! THEY'RE PUTTING KILLER MALONE'S WAX STATUE NEXT TO MINE, AND THEY WANT ME TO CHECK FOR DETAILS...


A SHORT DRIVE THROUGH THE CITY, AND...
GOOD NIGHT-- SEE YOU TOMORROW AT THE OFFICE!
GOOD NIGHT, STEVE! THANKS FOR THE RIDE, HARRY!
DINO ARMS APTS.


STEVE! STEVE! TOO LATE! HIS APPOINTMENT AT THE MUSEUM IS TOMORROW-- NOT TONIGHT!

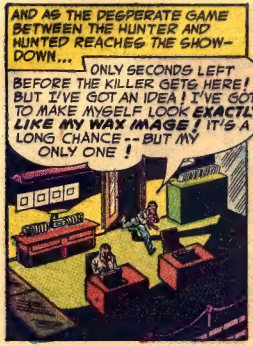

LATER, AT THE MUSEUM...
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'LL BE HERE, HARRY! YOU'D BETTER NOT WAIT...
OKAY, STEVE!


BUT AS STEVE WILGON STEPS TO THE DOOR, A FURTIVE FIGURE MOVES FROM THE SHADOWS...
NOBODY ANSWERED MY KNOCK... BUT THE DOOR IS OPEN!


ALL RIGHT, WILSON-- HERE'S WHERE YOU GET IT!
POW!

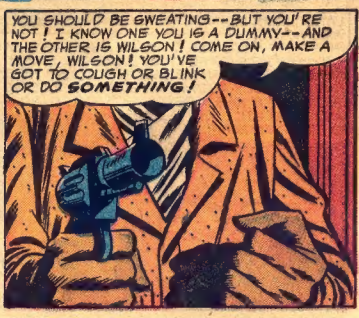
SOMEONE SHOT AT ME! INSPECTOR CALLAHAN WAS RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL!

HE'S FOLLOWED ME IN HERE...
INTO THE FORE-BODING EGYPTIAN EXHIBITION RACES THE ACE NEWSHAWK--PURSUED BY THE RELENTLESS GUNMAN...
POW!
ANOTHER SHOT GONE!
YOU BROKE MY GANG, WILSON! BUT YOU DIDN'T GET ME! AND THAT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU--BECAUSE I MADE A PROMISE I'D GET YOU! I HAD SIX SHOTS IN THIS CANNON--YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THEM ALL...
POW!
SIX SHOTS, EH? HE'S FIRED THREE--HE'S GOT THREE LEFT! IT'S AS IF I HAD SIX LIVES... WITH THREE MORE TO GO...
TAKE OFF A SHOE--THROW IT DOWN THE STAIRS, AND ATTRACT ANOTHER SHOT! THERE IT IS... NOW HE'S GOT TWO SHOTS LEFT!
KLOP!
KLOP!
POW!
THEN, REMOVING HIS COAT, STEVE DRAWS ANOTHER SHOT...
ONE LEFT... JUST ONE MORE!
POW!


AND AS THE DESPERATE GAME BETWEEN THE HUNTER AND HUNTED REACHES THE SHOW-DOWN...
ONLY SECONDS LEFT BEFORE THE KILLER GETS HERE! BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA! I'VE GOT TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MY WAX IMAGE! IT'S A LONG CHANCE--BUT MY ONLY ONE!

THEN, IN THE SILENCE OF THE DARKENED MUSEUM, THE KILLER ENTERS...
HUH?
WHAT IS THIS? ONE IS WILSON--AND THE OTHER IS A WAX IMAGE OF HIM...

ONE OF YOU IS WILSON! SPEAK UP! I'VE GOT ONE SHOT LEFT, WILSON--AND IT'S GOT YOUR NAME ON IT! NOW WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE REAL WILSON?


YOU SHOULD BE SWEATING--BUT YOU'RE NOT! I KNOW ONE YOU IS A DUMMY--AND THE OTHER IS WILSON! COME ON, MAKE A MOVE, WILSON! YOU'VE GOT TO COUGH OR BLINK OR DO SOMETHING!

THEN, SLOWLY, THE KILLER STEPS BEHIND ONE OF THE FIGURES AND...
YOU'RE THE REAL WILSON--I KNOW IT! I'LL GIVE YOU A COUNT OF THREE TO SAY SO! READY? ONE...

TWO...
THREE!

WHEELING QUICKLY, THE GUNMAN FIRES AT THE "OTHER" STEVE WILSON...

HA! THE FIGURE IN FRONT OF ME DIDN'T MOVE! IT CAN'T BE WILSON--NO MAN ALIVE **COULD'VE SAT MOTIONLESS** WHEN I REACHED THE COUNT OF THREE! HE WOULD'VE WINCED OR MADE SOME MOVE! THE **OTHER** FIGURE **HAS** TO BE THE REAL STEVE WILSON! MY TRICK WORKED!

POW!

BUT THE SOLE REMAINING SHOT HITS THE **WAX DUMMY**--AND IT IS THEN THAT STEVE LEAPS TO HIS FEET, AND...

CRACK!

YOUR LAST SHOT! NOW I TAKE OVER!

LATER, WHEN INSPECTOR CALLAHAN AND LORELEI ARRIVE...

YOU SEE, I FIGURED HE WAS BLUFFING WHEN HE SAID HE KNEW I WAS THE LIVING FIGURE--BECAUSE HE SAID HE'D COUNT THREE! HAD HE REALLY KNOWN, HE SIMPLY WOULD'VE SHOT ME! IT WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLE--AND I SAT STILL AND OUTLASTED HIM!

STEVE! YOUR SHOE! THE ONE YOU THREW DOWN THE STAIRS! IT'S STILL MISSING!

YES, LORELEI! THE MISSING SHOE WOULD HAVE BEEN A DEAD GIVEAWAY! LUCKY FOR ME THAT **YOU SAW** IT--AND **NOT** THE KILLER!

THE END

ADVERTISEMENT

SHOOT ME, BUT FIRST TELL ME HOW TO KEEP HAIR SO NEAT!

GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL IN TUBES!

WILDROOT CREAM-OIL CAN HELP YOU GET A HEAD, TOO. KEEPS HAIR GROOMED NATURALLY ALL DAY WITHOUT GREASINESS. NO DRYING ALCOHOL. NO HARSH SYNTHETICS. CONTAINS MAGIC LANOLIN, SO MUCH LIKE THE NATURAL OILS OF YOUR HAIR AND SCALP. TRY A BOTTLE OR HANDY TUBE TODAY.

WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC

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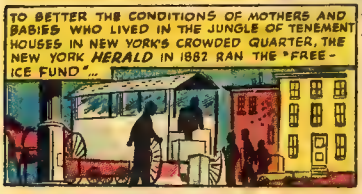
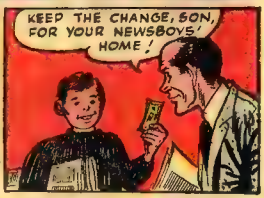
NEWSPAPER CAMPAIGNS OF GOOD WILL

THE NEW YORK *EVENING POST* AND NEW YORK *TRIBUNE* PIONEERED CAMPAIGNS FOR THE CITY'S UNDERPRIVILEGED CITIZENS. IN 1881, THEY INITIATED THE "FRESH AIR FUND" TO FINANCE OUTINGS IN THE COUNTRY FOR CHILDREN FROM THE TENEMENT-HOUSE DISTRICT...

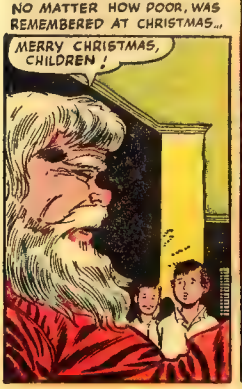
TO BETTER THE CONDITIONS OF MOTHERS AND BABIES WHO LIVED IN THE JUNGLE OF TENEMENT HOUSES IN NEW YORK'S CROWDED QUARTER, THE NEW YORK *HERALD* IN 1882 RAN THE "FREE-ICE FUND"...



THE PITTSBURGH *PRESS* RAISED $40,000 FROM ITS READERS TO BUILD A NEWSBOYS' HOME. IT ALSO COLLECTED MONEY FOR A MONUMENT TO SONGWRITER STEPHEN FOSTER, A NATIVE OF PITTSBURGH...

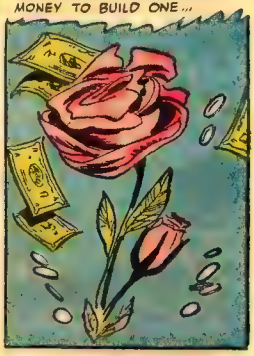


THE CHICAGO *TRIBUNE* INITIATED A "GOOD FELLOW CLUB" TO SEE THAT EVERY AMERICAN CHILD, NO MATTER HOW POOR, WAS REMEMBERED AT CHRISTMAS...



THE INDIANAPOLIS *NEWS*, WITH MONEY DONATED BY ITS READERS, BUILT A VILLAGE IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE AGED SICK OF THAT CITY.

LACKING A ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN ITS CITY, THE SAN FRANCISCO *CHRONICLE* APPEALED TO ITS READERS TO SUBSCRIBE MONEY TO BUILD ONE...



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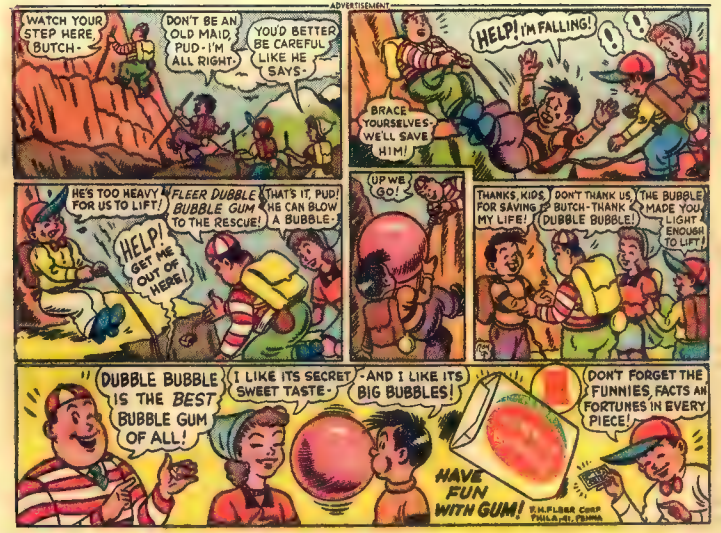
WATCH YOUR STEP HERE, BUTCH-
DON'T BE AN OLD MAID, PUD-I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL LIKE HE SAYS-
HELP! I'M FALLING!
BRACE YOURSELVES- WE'LL SAVE HIM!
HE'S TOO HEAVY FOR US TO LIFT!
HELP! GET ME OUT OF HERE!
FLEER DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM TO THE RESCUE!
THAT'S IT, PUD! HE CAN BLOW A BUBBLE-
UP WE GO!
THANKS, KIDS, FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
DON'T THANK US, BUTCH- THANK DUBBLE BUBBLE!
THE BUBBLE MADE YOU LIGHT ENOUGH TO LIFT!
DUBBLE BUBBLE IS THE BEST BUBBLE GUM OF ALL!
I LIKE ITS SECRET SWEET TASTE-
-AND I LIKE ITS BIG BUBBLES!
DON'T FORGET THE FUNNIES, FACTS AN FORTUNES IN EVERY PIECE!
HAVE FUN WITH GUM!
T. H. FLEER CORP PHILA., PA. U.S.A.

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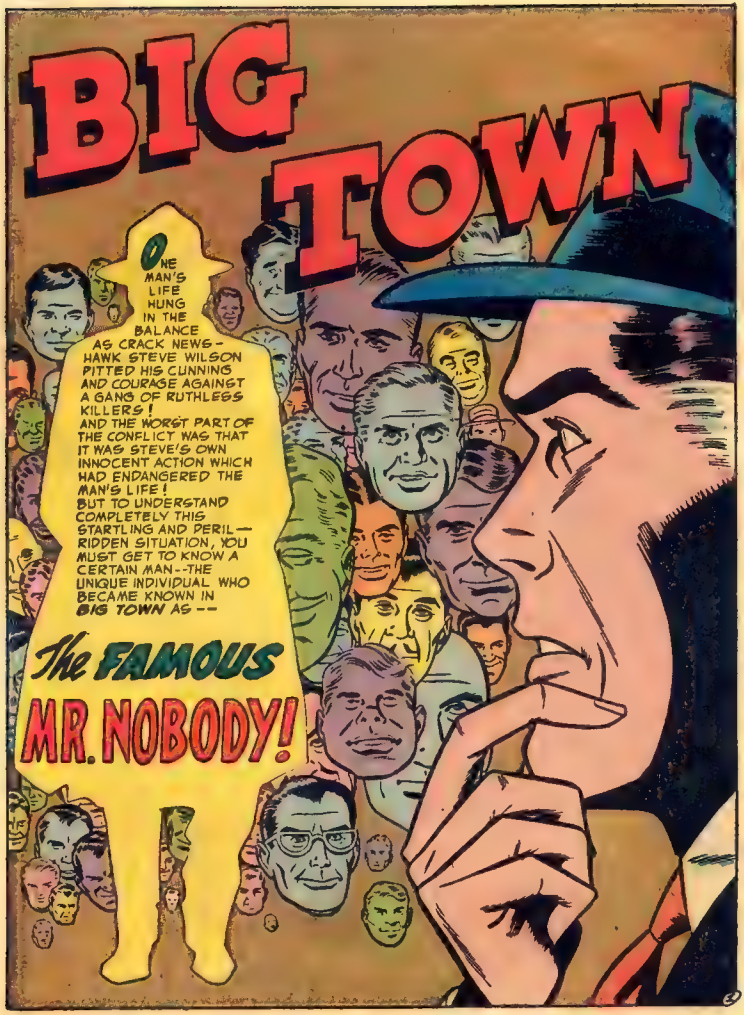
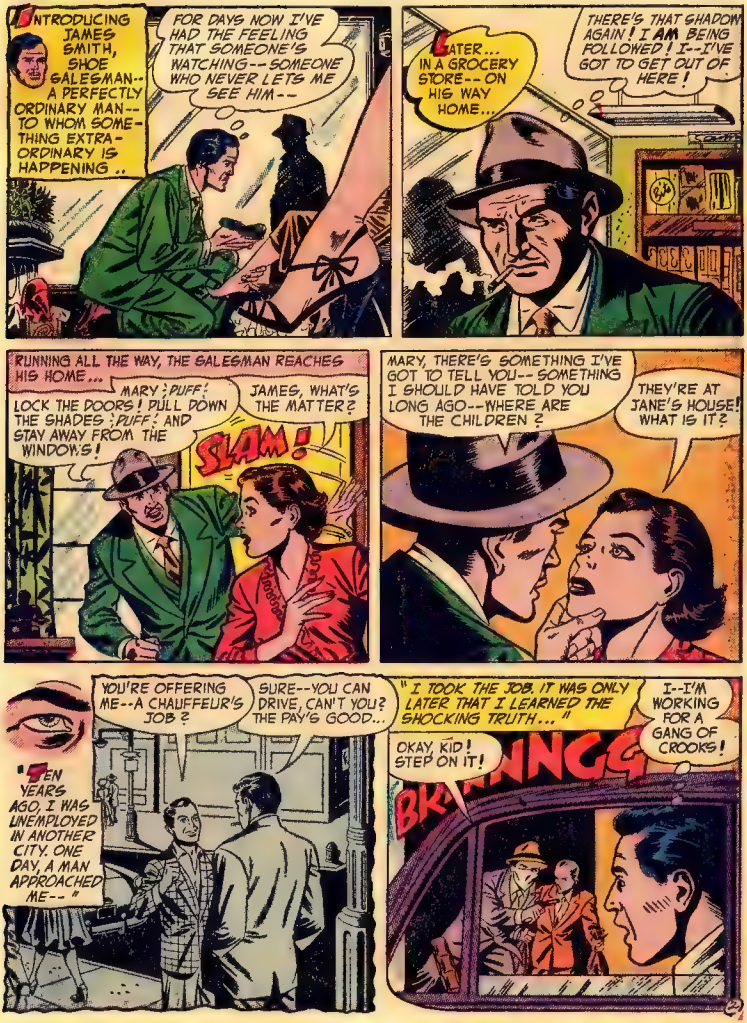
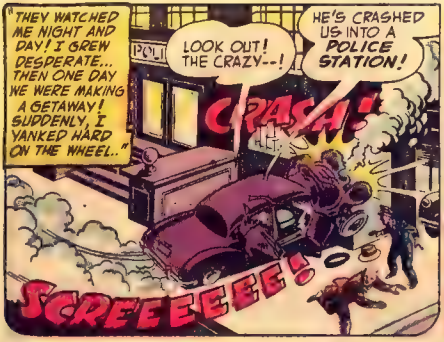
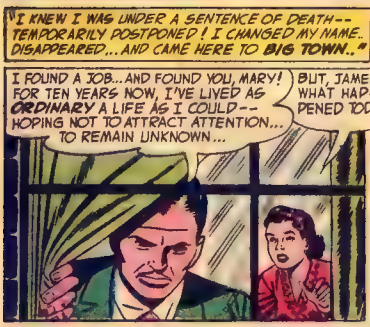
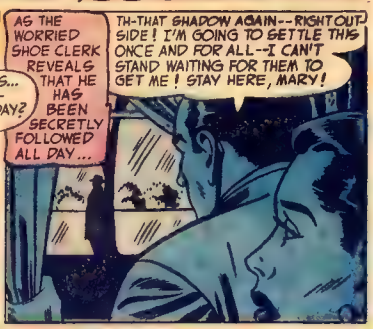

BIG TOWN
ONE MAN'S LIFE HUNG IN THE BALANCE AS CRACK NEWS-HAWK STEVE WILSON PITTED HIS CUNNING AND COURAGE AGAINST A GANG OF RUTHLESS KILLERS! AND THE WORST PART OF THE CONFLICT WAS THAT IT WAS STEVE'S OWN INNOCENT ACTION WHICH HAD ENDANGERED THE MAN'S LIFE! BUT TO UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY THIS STARTLING AND PERIL-RIDDEN SITUATION, YOU MUST GET TO KNOW A CERTAIN MAN--THE UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL WHO BECAME KNOWN IN BIG TOWN AS --
The FAMOUS MR. NOBODY!


INTRODUCING JAMES SMITH, SHOE SALESMAN--A PERFECTLY ORDINARY MAN--TO WHOM SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY IS HAPPENING ..
FOR DAYS NOW I'VE HAD THE FEELING THAT SOMEONE'S WATCHING--SOMEONE WHO NEVER LETS ME SEE HIM--
LATER... IN A GROCERY STORE--ON HIS WAY HOME...
THERE'S THAT SHADOW AGAIN! I AM BEING FOLLOWED! I--I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
RUNNING ALL THE WAY, THE SALESMAN REACHES HIS HOME...
MARY! PUFF! LOCK THE DOORS! PULL DOWN THE SHADES! PUFF! AND STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS!
JAMES, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SLAM!
MARY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU--SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU LONG AGO--WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?
THEY'RE AT JANE'S HOUSE! WHAT IS IT?
"TEN YEARS AGO, I WAS UNEMPLOYED IN ANOTHER CITY. ONE DAY, A MAN APPROACHED ME--"
YOU'RE OFFERING ME--A CHAUFFEUR'S JOB?
SURE--YOU CAN DRIVE, CAN'T YOU? THE PAY'S GOOD...
"I TOOK THE JOB. IT WAS ONLY LATER THAT I LEARNED THE SHOCKING TRUTH..."
OKAY, KID! STEP ON IT!
BR-RRNGG
I--I'M WORKING FOR A GANG OF CROOKS!


"THEY WATCHED ME NIGHT AND DAY! I GREW DESPERATE... THEN ONE DAY WE WERE MAKING A GETAWAY! SUDDENLY, I YANKED HARD ON THE WHEEL.."
LOOK OUT! THE CRAZY--!
HE'S CRASHED US INTO A POLICE STATION!
CRASH!
SCREEEEEE!

"THE POLICE SEIZED THE GANG! AT THEIR TRIAL, I TESTIFIED AGAINST THEM! AFTERWARDS, IN THE COURTROOM..."
WE WON'T BE IN JAIL FOREVER, PAL! WE'LL GET OUT ONE OF THESE DAYS...
...AND WHEN WE GET OUT, WE'LL GET YOU!

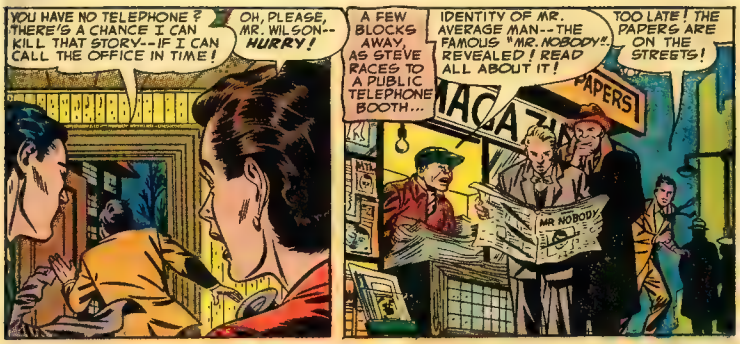

"I KNEW I WAS UNDER A SENTENCE OF DEATH--TEMPORARILY POSTPONED! I CHANGED MY NAME.. DISAPPEARED... AND CAME HERE TO BIG TOWN.."
I FOUND A JOB... AND FOUND YOU, MARY! FOR TEN YEARS NOW, I'VE LIVED AS ORDINARY A LIFE AS I COULD--HOPING NOT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION... TO REMAIN UNKNOWN...
BUT, JAMES... WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

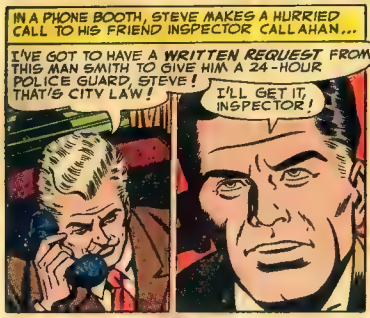

AS THE WORRIED SHOE CLERK REVEALS THAT HE HAS BEEN SECRETLY FOLLOWED ALL DAY...
TH-THAT SHADOW AGAIN--RIGHT OUTSIDE! I'M GOING TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL--I CAN'T STAND WAITING FOR THEM TO GET ME! STAY HERE, MARY!

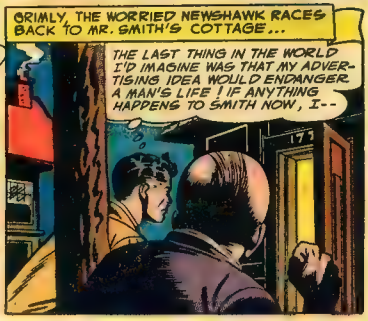
MOMENTS LATER...
ONLY ONE OF THEM IS HERE! I'VE GOT A CHANCE! GOT TO KNOCK HIM OUT BEFORE HE CAN PULL HIS GUN!

TAKE IT EASY, MISTER! NO NEED TO FIGHT!

WHY--YOU'RE STEVE WILSON! I THOUGHT--
I MUST SAY, MR. SMITH--YOU HAVE AN ODD WAY OF GREETING SOMEONE WHO CAME HERE TO PRESENT YOU WITH A CHECK FOR $5,000!
A $5000 CHECK--FOR ME?
I'D BETTER START FROM THE BEGINNING! YOU SEE, MY NEWSPAPER--THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS--HAD BEGUN A DRIVE TO INCREASE OUR ADVERTISING! WE NEEDED A FRESH SELLING POINT TO SECURE NEW CLIENTS..
INSIDE MR. SMITH'S COTTAGE..
WE CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF MAKING A SECRET SEARCH FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN OF BIG TOWN! WE FOUND HIM! WE STUDIED HIS BUYING HABITS--AND WE FOUND WE COULD PREDICT WHAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC WOULD BUY--BASED ON WHAT HE BOUGHT!
WE FOLLOWED MR. AVERAGE MAN SECRETLY FOR WEEKS--A NECESSARY MANEUVER AND WE MUST APOLOGIZE FOR IT, MR. SMITH... FOR OF COURSE YOU ARE OUR AVERAGE MAN! AND AS A REWARD FOR THE IMPORTANT PART YOU PLAYED IN INCREASING OUR ADVERTISING REVENUE, WE HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU OUR CHECK FOR $5000!
THE ENTIRE STORY--WITH PICTURES OF YOU--IS APPEARING IN TONIGHT'S ILLUSTRATED PRESS!
NO! NO! THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLE! LISTEN--
THEN...AS JAMES SMITH BLURTS OUT HIS STORY, IT IS THE ACE NEWSHAWK'S TURN TO BE AMAZED.
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THE ROLE OF AN AVERAGE MAN IN ORDER TO AVOID PUBLICITY?
EXACTLY! MY PICTURE IN YOUR PAPER WOULD BE MY DEATH WARRANT!

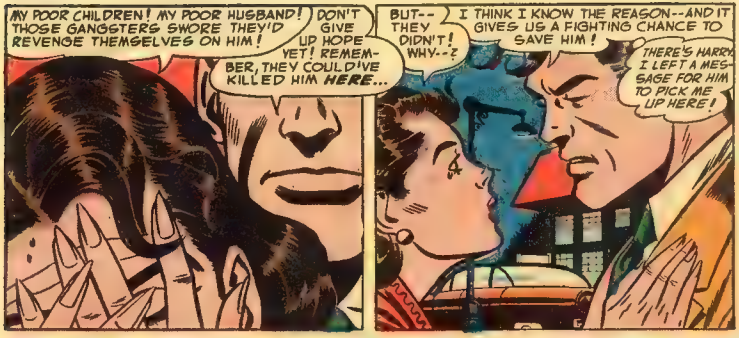

YOU HAVE NO TELEPHONE? THERE'S A CHANCE I CAN KILL THAT STORY--IF I CAN CALL THE OFFICE IN TIME!
OH, PLEASE, MR. WILSON--HURRY!
A FEW BLOCKS AWAY AS STEVE RACES TO A PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTH...
IDENTITY OF MR. AVERAGE MAN--THE FAMOUS "MR. NOBODY" REVEALED! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
TOO LATE! THE PAPERS ARE ON THE STREETS!
PAPERS!
MAGAZINE
MR NOBODY

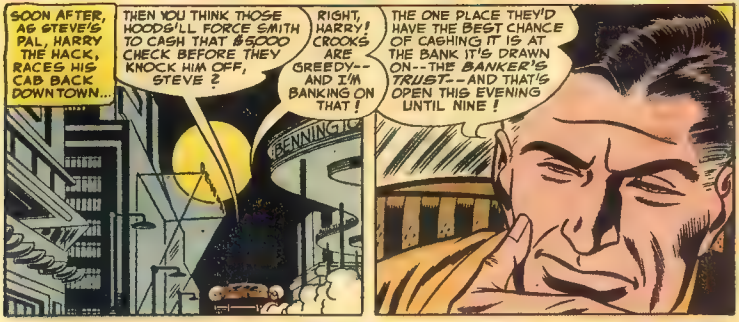

IN A PHONE BOOTH, STEVE MAKES A HURRIED CALL TO HIS FRIEND INSPECTOR CALLAHAN...
I'VE GOT TO HAVE A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THIS MAN SMITH TO GIVE HIM A 24-HOUR POLICE GUARD, STEVE! THAT'S CITY LAW!
I'LL GET IT, INSPECTOR!

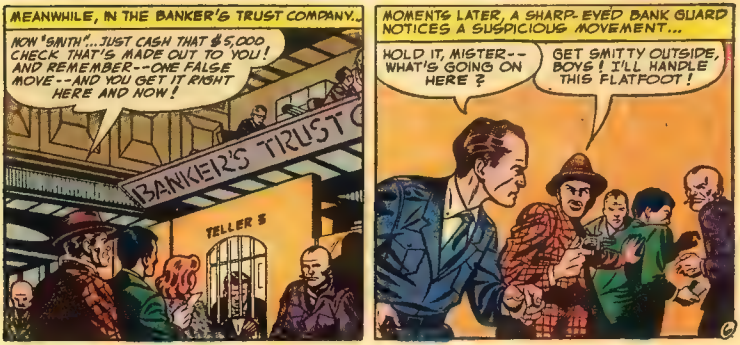

GRIMLY, THE WORRIED NEWSHAWK RACES BACK TO MR. SMITH'S COTTAGE...
THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD I'D IMAGINE WAS THAT MY ADVERTISING IDEA WOULD ENDANGER A MAN'S LIFE! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO SMITH NOW, I--
177

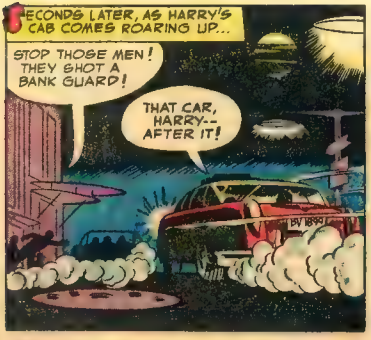
THE NEXT MOMENT... A SNEAK ATTACK...
WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE BACK HERE, WILSON! SO I JUST KEPT AN EYE OUT FOR YOU, SEE?
KAK!
UGHH!

WHEN THE ACE NEWSMAN REVIVES... SOON AFTER...
MRS. SMITH--WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY CAME--MY HUSBAND'S ENEMIES! ONE OF THEM STRUCK YOU DOWN--AND THEY TOOK HIM AWAY!

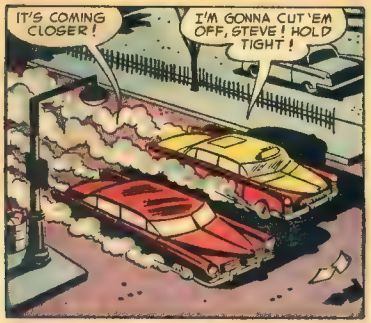

MY POOR CHILDREN! MY POOR HUSBAND! THOSE GANGSTERS SWORE THEY'D REVENGE THEMSELVES ON HIM!
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE YET! REMEMBER, THEY COULD'VE KILLED HIM HERE...
BUT--THEY DIDN'T! WHY--?
I THINK I KNOW THE REASON--AND IT GIVES US A FIGHTING CHANCE TO SAVE HIM!
THERE'S HARRY. I LEFT A MESSAGE FOR HIM TO PICK ME UP HERE!

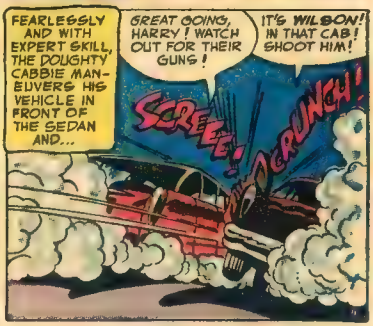

SOON AFTER, AS STEVE'S PAL, HARRY THE HACK, RACES HIS CAB BACK DOWNTOWN...
THEN YOU THINK THOSE HOODS'LL FORCE SMITH TO CASH THAT $5000 CHECK BEFORE THEY KNOCK HIM OFF, STEVE?
RIGHT, HARRY! CROOKS ARE GREEDY--AND I'M BANKING ON THAT!
THE ONE PLACE THEY'D HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF CASHING IT IS AT THE BANK IT'S DRAWN ON--THE BANKER'S TRUST--AND THAT'S OPEN THIS EVENING UNTIL NINE!

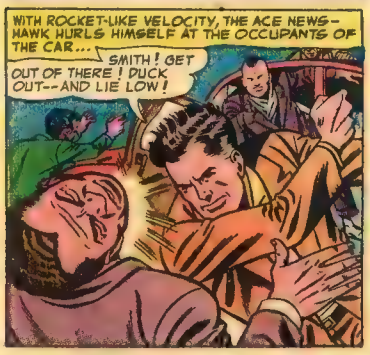

MEANWHILE, IN THE BANKER'S TRUST COMPANY..
NOW 'SMITH"..JUST CASH THAT $5,000 CHECK THAT'S MADE OUT TO YOU! AND REMEMBER--ONE FALSE MOVE--AND YOU GET IT RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
BANKER'S TRUST
TELLER 5
MOMENTS LATER, A SHARP-EYED BANK GUARD NOTICES A SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENT...
HOLD IT, MISTER--WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GET SMITTY OUTSIDE, BOYS! I'LL HANDLE THIS FLATFOOT!

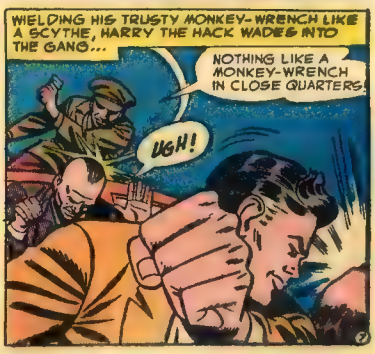

SECONDS LATER, AS HARRY'S CAB COMES ROARING UP...
STOP THOSE MEN! THEY SHOT A BANK GUARD!
THAT CAR, HARRY--AFTER IT!

SMITH IS IN THAT CAR! WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT!
SOMEONE'S FOLLOWING US--IN THAT CAB!

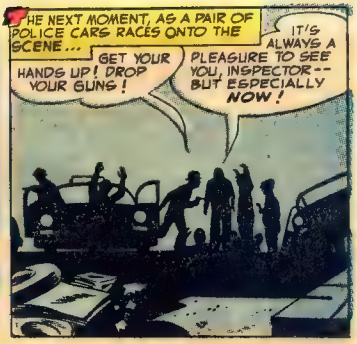

IT'S COMING CLOSER!
I'M GONNA CUT 'EM OFF, STEVE! HOLD TIGHT!


FEARLESSLY AND WITH EXPERT SKILL, THE DOUGHTY CABBIE MANEUVERS HIS VEHICLE IN FRONT OF THE SEDAN AND...
GREAT GOING, HARRY! WATCH OUT FOR THEIR GUNS!
IT'S WILSON! IN THAT CAB! SHOOT HIM!
SCREEE!
CRUNCH!

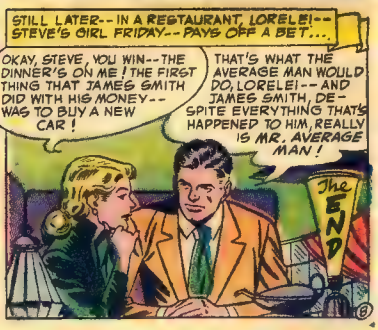

WITH ROCKET-LIKE VELOCITY, THE ACE NEWSHAWK HURLS HIMSELF AT THE OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR...
SMITH! GET OUT OF THERE! DUCK OUT--AND LIE LOW!


WIELDING HIS TRUSTY MONKEY-WRENCH LIKE A SCYTHE, HARRY THE HACK WADES INTO THE GANG...
NOTHING LIKE A MONKEY-WRENCH IN CLOSE QUARTERS
UGH!

CRACK!
THANKS, STEVE! THAT ONE WOULDA GOT ME!


THE NEXT MOMENT, AS A PAIR OF POLICE CARS RACES ONTO THE SCENE...
GET YOUR HANDS UP! DROP YOUR GUNS!
IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, INSPECTOR--BUT ESPECIALLY NOW!

LATER--AS STEVE CONVEYS A BIT OF GOOD NEWS TO THE SHOE CLERK AND HIS WIFE...
--AND YOU CAN STOP WORRYING FROM NOW ON! WOUNDING THAT BANK GUARD WAS THE FOURTH OFFENSE FOR THOSE CROOKS! THEY'RE ALL GOING TO JAIL FOR LIFE--AND THEY'LL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!


STILL LATER--IN A RESTAURANT, LORELEI--STEVE'S GIRL FRIDAY--PAYS OFF A BET...
OKAY, STEVE, YOU WIN--THE DINNER'S ON ME! THE FIRST THING THAT JAMES SMITH DID WITH HIS MONEY--WAS TO BUY A NEW CAR!
THAT'S WHAT THE AVERAGE MAN WOULD DO, LORELEI--AND JAMES SMITH, DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM, REALLY IS MR. AVERAGE MAN!
THE END

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THE FIRST WOMEN'S PAGE--THE *WOMEN'S REALM*--APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK *HERALD* IN 1840, AND WAS EDITED BY A MAN...

MAY I HAVE THE WOMEN'S REALM PAGE, DEAR?

THE NEW YORK *TIMES* OF 1914 INTRODUCED THE FIRST ROTOGRAVURE SECTION. SEVEN YEARS LATER, THE CHICAGO *TRIBUNE* OFFERED THE FIRST COLORED ROTOGRAVURE PAGES...

GET YOUR *TIMES*! EXTRA PICTURE SECTION TODAY!

IN DECEMBER, 1938, THE ST. LOUIS *POST-DISPATCH*, IN COOPERATION WITH THE RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, ISSUED THE FIRST FACSIMILE NEWSPAPER--RECEIVED BY RADIO BROADCAST...

STAND BY, RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA! I'M SENDING OVER OUR LATEST EDITION TO BE TRANSMITTED TO ST. LOUIS!

EDITOR

THE FIRST USE OF MULTIPLE HEADLINES OVER BIG STORIES WAS IN CONNECTION WITH NEWS ACCOUNTS OF THE MEXICAN WAR AND CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH...

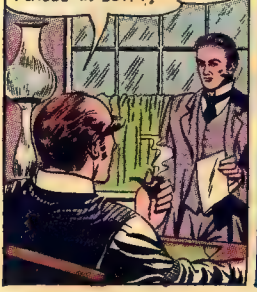
HERE'S THE LATEST ON THE MEXICAN WAR! LOOK IT OVER AND WRITE ME A LEAD HEADLINE AND TWO SUB-HEADS!

THE FIRST EYE-WITNESS REPORT STORY APPEARED IN THE BOSTON *NEWS LETTER* OF JUNE 30, 1704, AND DEALT WITH THE HANGING OF THE NOTORIOUS PIRATE QUELCH ON THE BANKS OF THE CHARLES RIVER...

AMAZING EDITORS

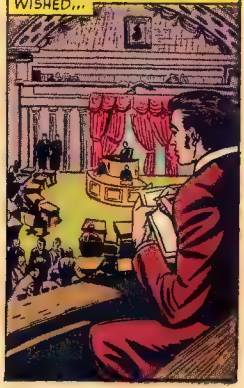
JOSEPH MEDILL, THE BRILLIANT EDITOR OF THE CHICAGO *TRIBUNE*, ONCE INSISTED ON ATTRIBUTING ALL NATURAL PHENOMENA TO SUNSPOTS...

IF YOU CHECK THE RECENT RISE IN SUNSPOT ACTIVITY, I WARRANT IT WILL ACCOUNT FOR THE CURRENT PLAGUE IN EGYPT.



CARR VAN ANDA, A FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK *TIMES*, DECIPHERED THE HIEROGLYPHICS ON THE INTERIOR OF *TUT-ANKH-AMEN'S* TOMB FROM A NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, ENABLING HIS PAPER TO SCORE A SCOOP ON THIS IMPORTANT ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY...

EDITOR JOHN GORDON BENNETT ORGANIZED A WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS IN THE 1840'S AND CONDUCTED A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO GET ITS MEMBERS ADMITTED TO THE GALLERY OF CONGRESS WHENEVER THEY WISHED...



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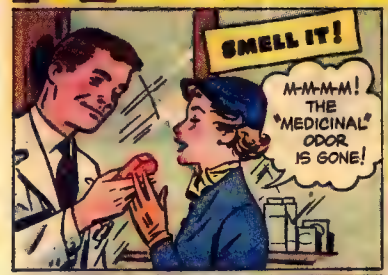

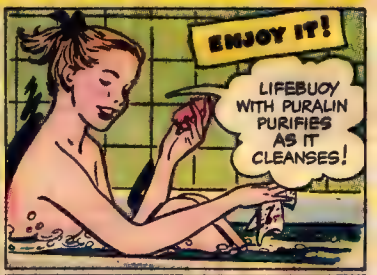

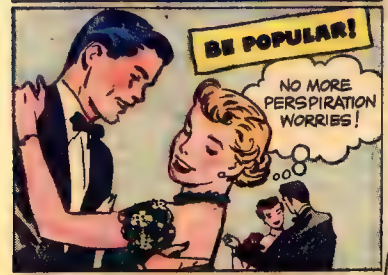

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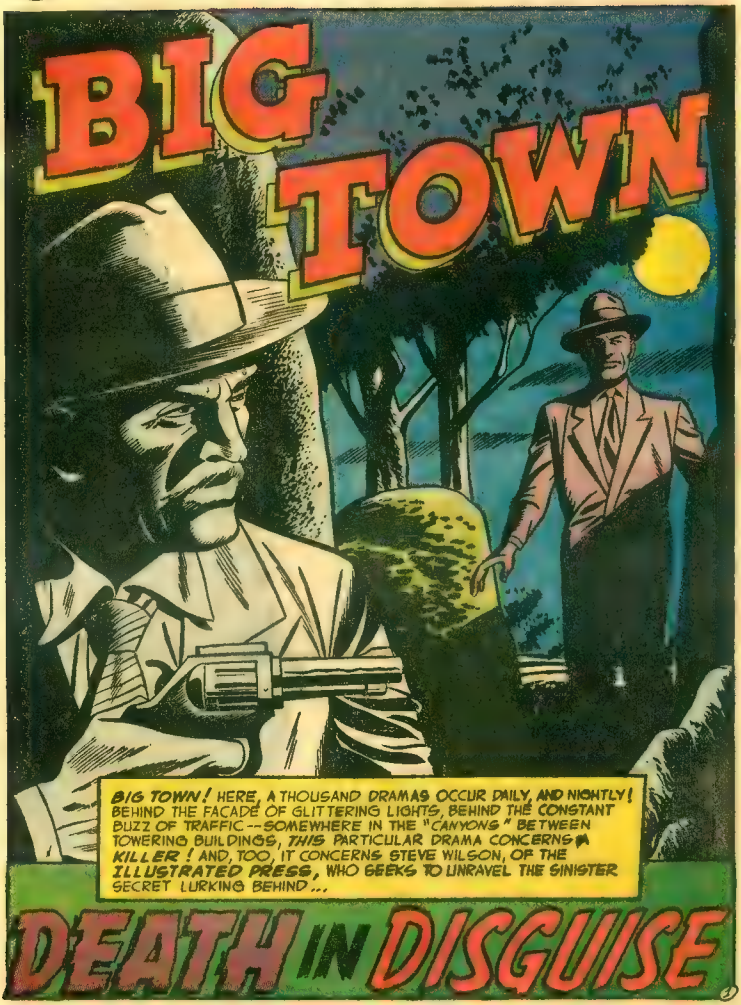
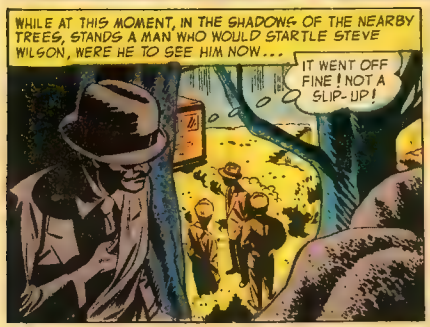

BIG TOWN
BIG TOWN! HERE, A THOUSAND DRAMAS OCCUR DAILY, AND NIGHTLY! BEHIND THE FACADE OF GLITTERING LIGHTS, BEHIND THE CONSTANT BUZZ OF TRAFFIC --- SOMEWHERE IN THE "CANYONS" BETWEEN TOWERING BUILDINGS, THIS PARTICULAR DRAMA CONCERNS A KILLER! AND, TOO, IT CONCERNS STEVE WILSON, OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, WHO SEEKS TO UNRAVEL THE SINISTER SECRET LURKING BEHIND...
DEATH IN DISGUISE

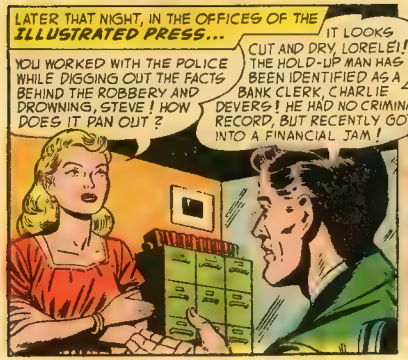
ONE NIGHT AS HARRY THE HACK'S CAB PULLS UP BEFORE A THEATER...
WILL YOU NEED ME AGAIN TONIGHT, MR. WILSON?
NO THANKS, HARRY!
3-D THRILLER
TRAIL'S END
3-D THE "TRAIL'S END"
STEVE! LOOK! THAT MAN AT THE TICKET WINDOW HAS A GUN IN HIS POCKET! I THINK HE'S HOLDING UP THE CASHIER!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LORRY! I CAN SEE THE BULGING POCKET FROM HERE!
NOW DON'T MAKE A SOUND UNTIL I LOSE MYSELF IN THE CROWD! THAT WAY, YOU WON'T GET HURT!
THE NEXT MOMENT, AS THE THIEF TAKES OFF...
"TRAIL'S END!" THE MOVIE TITLE GOES FOR YOU TOO!
UNHHH! MY CHIN!
DESPERATELY, THE BANDIT COUNTERS WITH HIS GUN...
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, MISTER--I'LL MATCH YOU BLOW FOR BLOW!
WHACK!
SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE HOLD-UP MAN HAS MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE...
IT WAS JUST A GLANCING BLOW--ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SEE TWILIGHT! MY FIST FEELS LIKE IT WAS BROKEN AGAINST HIS CHIN! I CAN'T MAKE THAT MOVIE NOW, LORELEI! THIS IS A STORY--I'M GOING TO SEE INSPECTOR CALLAHAN!
I'M GOING WITH YOU!

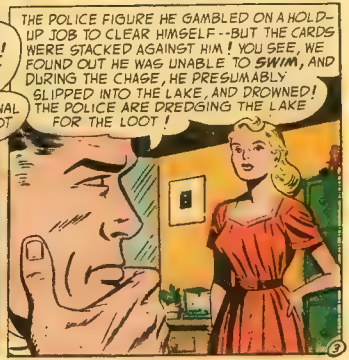
AFTERWARDS, AT THE INSPECTOR'S OFFICE...
THAT WAS A CALL FROM SQUAD CAR 14, STEVE! A MAN WAS FOUND DROWNED IN THE PARK LAKE! THEY THINK HE'S THE SAME MAN WHO HELD UP THE THEATER!
I'LL GO RIGHT OUT AND IDENTIFY HIM, INSPECTOR!

SOON, AT THE PARK LAKE..
WE FIGURE HE MUST'VE FALLEN INTO THE LAKE AS WE CHASED HIM, MR. WILSON! YOU SURE HE'S THE SAME MAN?
I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT HIM AS I FOUGHT WITH HIM--AND ALSO AGAIN RIGHT HERE! HE'S THE SAME MAN, ALL RIGHT!

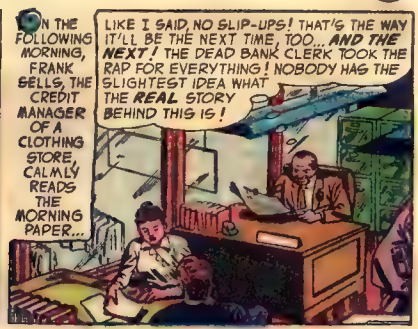

WHILE AT THIS MOMENT, IN THE SHADOWS OF THE NEARBY TREES, STANDS A MAN WHO WOULD STARTLE STEVE WILSON, WERE HE TO SEE HIM NOW...
IT WENT OFF FINE! NOT A SLIP-UP!

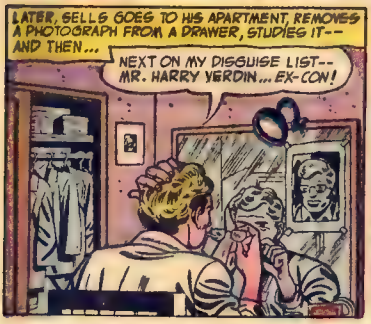
NO ONE WILL EVER SUSPECT I DID IT! NOW, I'LL REMOVE THE EYEBROWS AND FAKE MUSTACHE, AND BECOME MYSELF AGAIN!

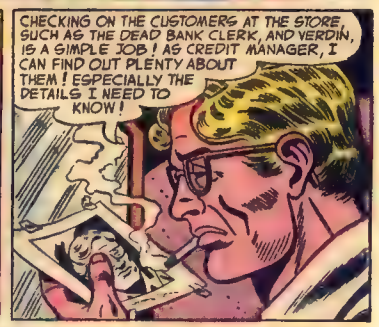

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN THE OFFICES OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
YOU WORKED WITH THE POLICE WHILE DIGGING OUT THE FACTS BEHIND THE ROBBERY AND DROWNING, STEVE! HOW DOES IT PAN OUT?
IT LOOKS CUT AND DRY, LORELEI! THE HOLD-UP MAN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A BANK CLERK, CHARLIE DEVERS! HE HAD NO CRIMINAL RECORD, BUT RECENTLY GOT INTO A FINANCIAL JAM!

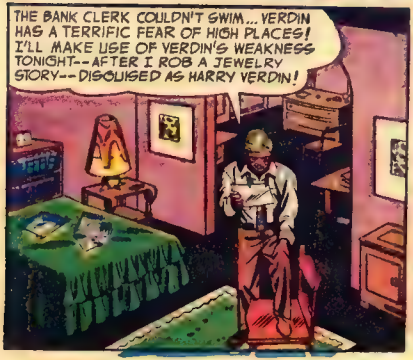

THE POLICE FIGURE HE GAMBLED ON A HOLD-UP JOB TO CLEAR HIMSELF--BUT THE CARDS WERE STACKED AGAINST HIM! YOU SEE, WE FOUND OUT HE WAS UNABLE TO SWIM, AND DURING THE CHASE, HE PRESUMABLY SLIPPED INTO THE LAKE, AND DROWNED! THE POLICE ARE DREDGING THE LAKE FOR THE LOOT!

YES, IT'S A CUT AND DRY CASE -- BUT SOMETHING BOTHERS ME-- SOMETHING I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON!

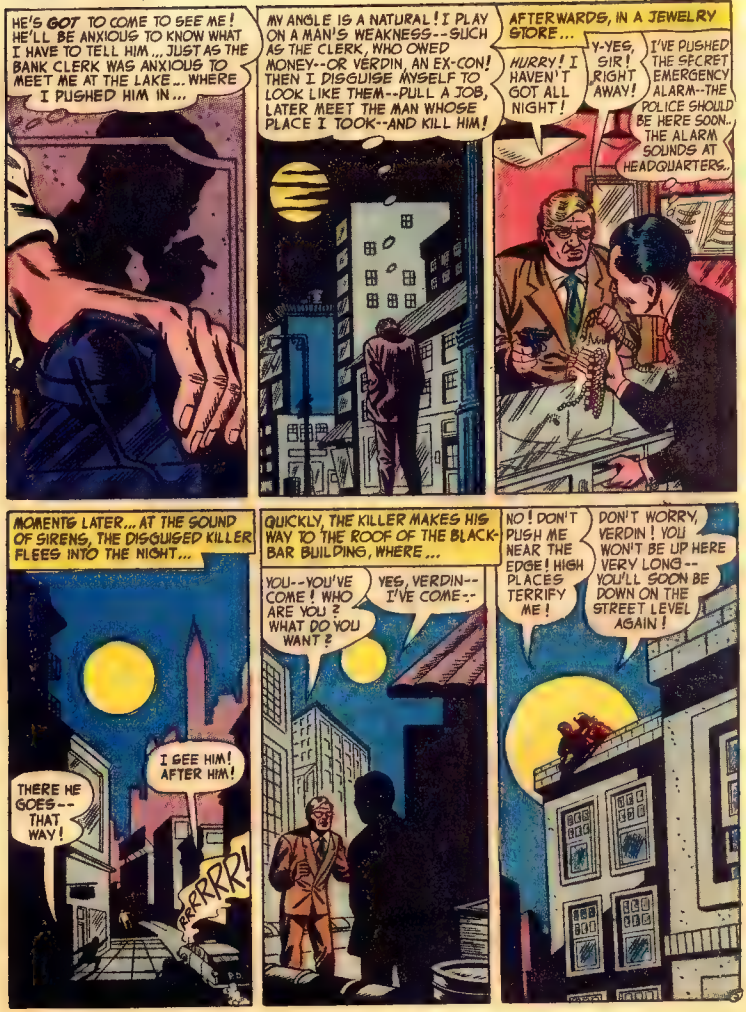

ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, FRANK SELLS, THE CREDIT MANAGER OF A CLOTHING STORE, CALMLY READS THE MORNING PAPER...
LIKE I SAID, NO SLIP-UPS! THAT'S THE WAY IT'LL BE THE NEXT TIME, TOO... AND THE NEXT! THE DEAD BANK CLERK TOOK THE RAP FOR EVERYTHING! NOBODY HAS THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT THE REAL STORY BEHIND THIS IS!

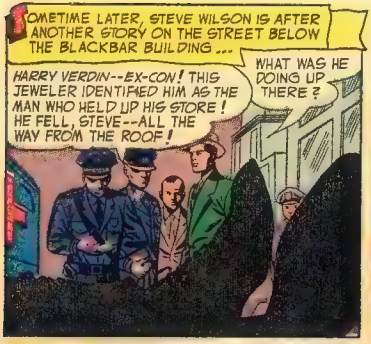

LATER, SELLS GOES TO HIS APARTMENT, REMOVES A PHOTOGRAPH FROM A DRAWER, STUDIES IT-- AND THEN...
NEXT ON MY DISGUISE LIST-- MR. HARRY VERDIN... EX-CON!

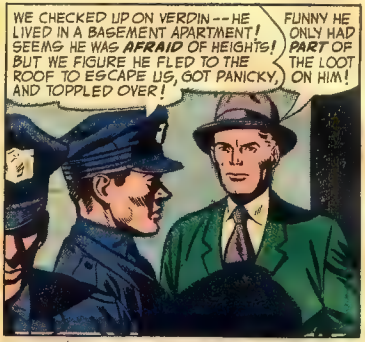

CHECKING ON THE CUSTOMERS AT THE STORE, SUCH AS THE DEAD BANK CLERK, AND VERDIN, IS A SIMPLE JOB! AS CREDIT MANAGER, I CAN FIND OUT PLENTY ABOUT THEM! ESPECIALLY THE DETAILS I NEED TO KNOW!

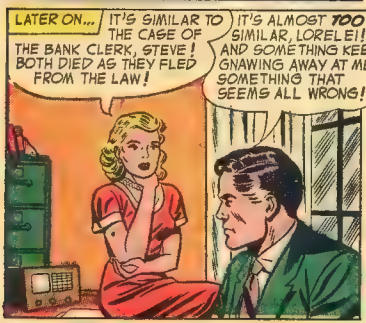

THE BANK CLERK COULDN'T SWIM... VERDIN HAS A TERRIFIC FEAR OF HIGH PLACES! I'LL MAKE USE OF VERDIN'S WEAKNESS TONIGHT-- AFTER I ROB A JEWELRY STORY-- DISGUISED AS HARRY VERDIN!

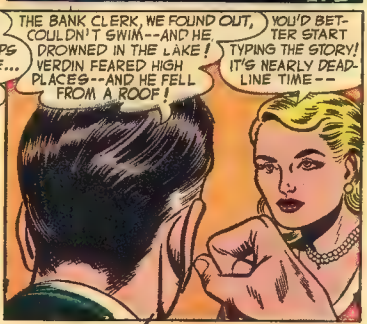
THAT NIGHT THE DISGUISED SELLS PHONES THE REAL HARRY VERDIN...
SURE, I'M AN EX-CON! BUT I'VE GONE STRAIGHT! WHAT COULD YOU WANT TO SEE ME ABOUT?
YOU'D BETTER SEE ME, VERDIN-- ON THE ROOF OF THE BLACKBAR BUILDING-- AT 9:45 SHARP! WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL EFFECT YOUR WHOLE FUTURE! GOODBYE!

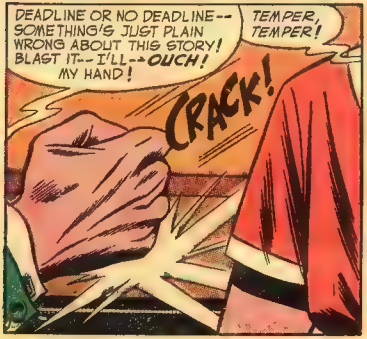

HE'S GOT TO COME TO SEE ME! HE'LL BE ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO TELL HIM... JUST AS THE BANK CLERK WAS ANXIOUS TO MEET ME AT THE LAKE... WHERE I PUSHED HIM IN...
MY ANGLE IS A NATURAL! I PLAY ON A MAN'S WEAKNESS--SUCH AS THE CLERK, WHO OWED MONEY--OR VERDIN, AN EX-CON! THEN I DISGUISE MYSELF TO LOOK LIKE THEM--PULL A JOB, LATER MEET THE MAN WHOSE PLACE I TOOK--AND KILL HIM!
AFTERWARDS, IN A JEWELRY STORE...
HURRY! I HAVEN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!
Y-YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY!
I'VE PUSHED THE SECRET EMERGENCY ALARM--THE POLICE SHOULD BE HERE SOON.. THE ALARM SOUNDS AT HEADQUARTERS..
MOMENTS LATER... AT THE SOUND OF SIRENS, THE DISGUISED KILLER FLEES INTO THE NIGHT...
THERE HE GOES--THAT WAY!
I SEE HIM! AFTER HIM!
RRRRR!
QUICKLY, THE KILLER MAKES HIS WAY TO THE ROOF OF THE BLACKBAR BUILDING, WHERE...
YOU--YOU'VE COME! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YES, VERDIN--I'VE COME--
NO! DON'T PUSH ME NEAR THE EDGE! HIGH PLACES TERRIFY ME!
DON'T WORRY, VERDIN! YOU WON'T BE UP HERE VERY LONG--YOU'LL SOON BE DOWN ON THE STREET LEVEL AGAIN!

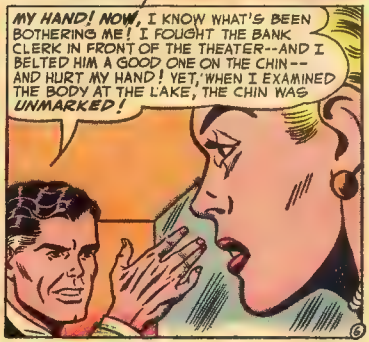

SOMETIME LATER, STEVE WILSON IS AFTER ANOTHER STORY ON THE STREET BELOW THE BLACKBAR BUILDING ...
WHAT WAS HE DOING UP THERE?
HARRY VERDIN--EX-CON! THIS JEWELER IDENTIFIED HIM AS THE MAN WHO HELD UP HIS STORE! HE FELL, STEVE--ALL THE WAY FROM THE ROOF!

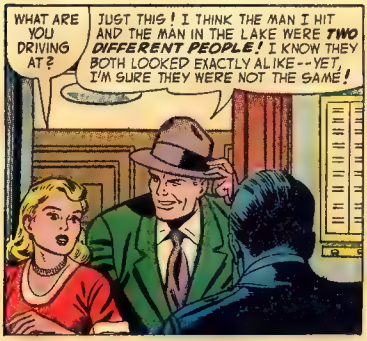

WE CHECKED UP ON VERDIN--HE LIVED IN A BASEMENT APARTMENT! SEEMS HE WAS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS! BUT WE FIGURE HE FLED TO THE ROOF TO ESCAPE US, GOT PANICKY, AND TOPPLED OVER!
FUNNY HE ONLY HAD PART OF THE LOOT ON HIM!


LATER ON...
IT'S SIMILAR TO THE CASE OF THE BANK CLERK, STEVE! BOTH DIED AS THEY FLED FROM THE LAW!
IT'S ALMOST TOO SIMILAR, LORELEI! AND SOMETHING KEEPS GNAWING AWAY AT ME... SOMETHING THAT SEEMS ALL WRONG!

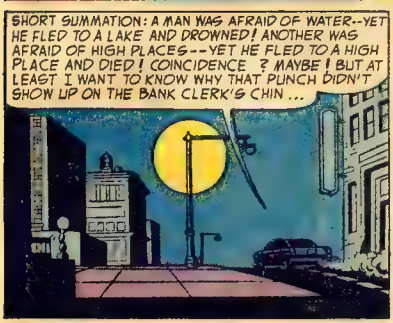

THE BANK CLERK, WE FOUND OUT, COULDN'T SWIM--AND HE DROWNED IN THE LAKE! VERDIN FEARED HIGH PLACES--AND HE FELL FROM A ROOF!
YOU'D BETTER START TYPING THE STORY! IT'S NEARLY DEADLINE TIME--

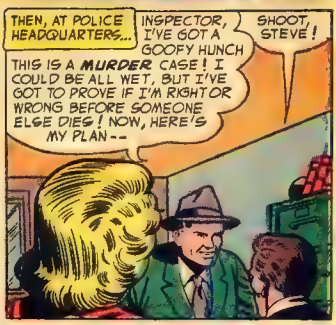

DEADLINE OR NO DEADLINE--SOMETHING'S JUST PLAIN WRONG ABOUT THIS STORY! BLAST IT--I'LL--
OUCH! MY HAND!
TEMPER, TEMPER!
CRACK!

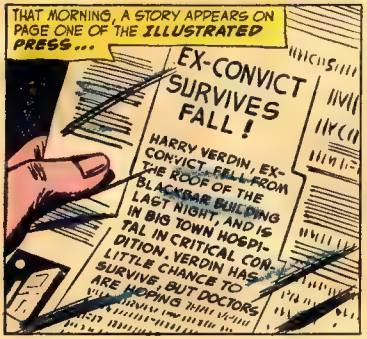

MY HAND! NOW, I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME! I FOUGHT THE BANK CLERK IN FRONT OF THE THEATER--AND I BELTED HIM A GOOD ONE ON THE CHIN--AND HURT MY HAND! YET, WHEN I EXAMINED THE BODY AT THE LAKE, THE CHIN WAS UNMARKED!


WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT?
JUST THIS! I THINK THE MAN I HIT AND THE MAN IN THE LAKE WERE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE! I KNOW THEY BOTH LOOKED EXACTLY ALIKE--YET, I'M SURE THEY WERE NOT THE SAME!

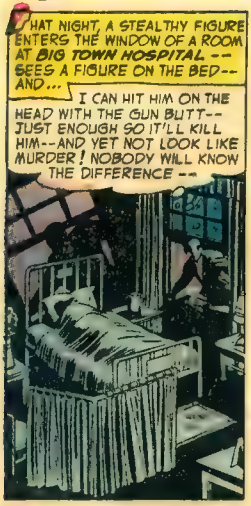
GET THIS, TOO! IN BOTH CASES THE CRIMINAL DIDN'T TRY TO CONCEAL HIS IDENTITY AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME! IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WANTED TO BE SEEN!
TO INSPECTOR CALLAHAN'S OFFICE, HARRY!


SHORT SUMMATION: A MAN WAS AFRAID OF WATER--YET HE FLED TO A LAKE AND DROWNED! ANOTHER WAS AFRAID OF HIGH PLACES--YET HE FLED TO A HIGH PLACE AND DIED! COINCIDENCE ? MAYBE! BUT AT LEAST I WANT TO KNOW WHY THAT PUNCH DIDN'T SHOW UP ON THE BANK CLERK'S CHIN ...


THEN, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
INSPECTOR, I'VE GOT A GOOFY HUNCH
SHOOT, STEVE!
THIS IS A MURDER CASE! I COULD BE ALL WET, BUT I'VE GOT TO PROVE IF I'M RIGHT OR WRONG BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DIES! NOW, HERE'S MY PLAN--


THAT MORNING, A STORY APPEARS ON PAGE ONE OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
EX-CONVICT SURVIVES FALL!
HARRY VERDIN, EX-CONVICT, FELL FROM THE ROOF OF THE BLACKBAR BUILDING LAST NIGHT, AND IS IN BIG TOWN HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION. VERDIN HAS LITTLE CHANCE TO SURVIVE, BUT DOCTORS ARE HOPING THAT VERDIN

VERDIN--STILL ALIVE! IF HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE CAN TELL ALL! SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE VERDIN NEVER TALKS AGAIN!

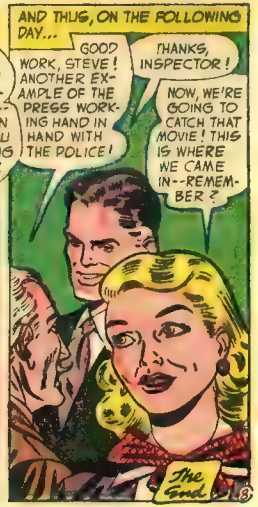

THAT NIGHT, A STEALTHY FIGURE ENTERS THE WINDOW OF A ROOM AT BIG TOWN HOSPITAL -- SEES A FIGURE ON THE BED -- AND...
I CAN HIT HIM ON THE HEAD WITH THE GUN BUTT -- JUST ENOUGH SO IT'LL KILL HIM -- AND YET NOT LOOK LIKE MURDER! NOBODY WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE --

BUT AS THE TREACHEROUS BLOW DESCENDS TOWARD THE FIGURE ...
THIS IS "TRAIL'S END" AGAIN, MISTER!
HUH? YOU AIN'T VERDIN!

NO, I'M NOT HARRY VERDIN! VERDIN IS DEAD! I SIMPLY POSED AS VERDIN TO LURE THE KILLER -- YOU -- TO THIS ROOM!
BANG BANG!

THE POLICE HAVE THE HOSPITAL SURROUNDED -- BUT THEY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO SHOW UP THROUGH THE WINDOW! BETTER DROP THAT GUN!

THEN, HEARING THE SHOTS -- THE POLICE ARRIVE ...
IT'S ALL OVER! I'M PRETTY GOOD AT TAKING DOWN STORIES... START TALKING!
OKAY -- OKAY! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU TUMBLED, WILSON -- BUT I KNOW WHEN THE GAME'S UP! YOU TRICKED ME INTO COMING HERE -- AND I FELL FOR IT! I'M BEATEN -- AND I'LL TALK!


AND THUS, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...
GOOD WORK, STEVE! ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PRESS WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH THE POLICE!
THANKS, INSPECTOR!
NOW, WE'RE GOING TO CATCH THAT MOVIE! THIS IS WHERE WE CAME IN -- REMEMBER?
The End

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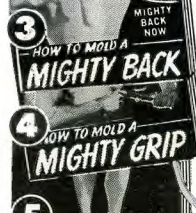

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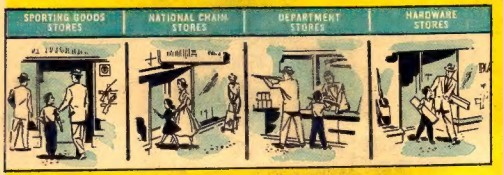

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